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BPA will power Flathead Electric Co-op's new customers

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Bonneville Power Administration

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Kalispell, Mont. –The Bonneville Power Administration and [Flathead Electric Cooperative](#) announced an agreement today that will provide 36,000 more customers in western Montana with clean, low-cost federal hydropower.

"We are delighted with this decision," said Administrator Judi Johansen. "Flathead Electric Cooperative could have purchased power from any number of suppliers, but instead elected to expand its 50-year relationship with BPA."

Flathead Electric Cooperative's [General Manager Warren McConkey](#) explained the contract with BPA will provide a fixed wholesale price so the utility can continue to meet its commitment for price stability to its customers. "During the challenging times of electric restructuring and settling in to our acquisition growth in customer base, we needed a low-cost, simple-to-administer power supply. We found that with BPA," he said.

Under the agreement, Flathead Electric Cooperative will purchase an additional 40 average megawatts of power from BPA from March 1, 1999 through Sept. 30, 2001. The deal makes Flathead Electric Cooperative one of BPA's biggest publicly owned utility customers.

"BPA has much to offer Flathead Electric Cooperative and their new customers," said BPA Account Executive C.T. Beede. "For example, our environmentally preferred power products such as wind power and other renewable resources will fit in with the quality of life these new customers already enjoy," said Beede.

In November 1998, Flathead Electric Cooperative and its subsidiary, Energy Northwest Inc., purchased all of PacifiCorp's electric service area in Montana.

The Bonneville Power Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Energy, markets wholesale hydroelectric power from the 29 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin, including [Hungry Horse](#) and [Libby](#) dams in northwestern Montana. BPA owns and operates about three-quarters of the Pacific Northwest's total transmission capacity. BPA customers include publicly owned and investor-owned utilities, as well as some large industries. In addition to Flathead Electric Cooperative, BPA sells power directly to seven other public utilities in western Montana and to the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company.

Flathead Electric Cooperative Inc. serves customers in seven Montana counties. Flathead's power

purchases will be used to provide electric energy and capacity for a substantial portion of its total northwest Montana load of some 47,000 customers.

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